further orders as an interim measure in order to ensure smooth functioning of the Punjab State Social Welfare Board.

(c) The State Government had on 5.11.2007 forwarded to CSWB a panel of three names for selecting a Chairperson of Punjab Social Welfare Board which is under consideration.

(d) No, Sir.

Care of children in need

2935. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of observations made by UNICEF's representative during February, 2008 that lakhs of children are in need of care but our Children Welfare Committees are able to deal with only a few thousands;

(b) if so, by when Government is going to create requisite infrastructure to fill up the widening gap in child-care; and

(c) whether the abandoned newly-born kids either in hospitals or other similar places getting immediate attention through Government agencies or NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Union Government has recently amended the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 provides for:

(i) Constitution of one or more Child Welfare Committee for each district;

(ii) Registration of all institutions under the Act, whether State Government run or those run by voluntary organization for children in need of care and protection;

(iii) Review the pendency of cases of the committee at every six months by State Governments/UT Administrations and direct the committee to increase the frequency of its sittings or may constitute additional committees;

(iv) Recognition of one or more of its institutions or voluntary organizations in each district as specialized adoption agencies for placement of orphan, abandoned or surrendered children for adoption;

(v) Constitution of Child Protection Unit for the State and such Unit for every district to take up matters relating to children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)' for implementation during the Eleventh Plan period under which there are provisions for creating requisite infrastructures to provide a safe and secure environment for overall development of the children in the country who are in need for care and protection and children in conflict with law.

(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a scheme namely 'Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-country Adoption under which financial assistance are provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations and State

Governments for running projects for orphan/destitute/abandoned children up to the age of 6 years to provide them institutional care followed by rehabilitation through in-country adoption. Under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), provision has been made for setting up of Cradle Baby Reception Centres in each district. These Cradle Baby Reception Centres would be liked to Cradle Points at Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs). Hospitals/ Nursing Homes, Swadhar Units, Short Stay Homes and in district Child Protection Units to received abandoned babies.

Regulatory framework of admission in nursery and kindergartens

2936. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is implementing any regulatory frameworks for admissions in nursery schools and kindergartens; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dhanlaxmi Scheme

2937. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has recently launched a new scheme called Dhanlaxmi for the girl child;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) what benefits, under the above scheme, the Ministry is proposing to give to a girl child;

(d) whether it is also a fact that an amount would also be provided to the family of the girl child with some riders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of districts identified in Andhra Pradesh for implementation of this scheme on pilot basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Scheme of Dhanalakshmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for the Girl Child with Insurance Cover-has been launched on 3.3.2008. The scheme includes cash Transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.